

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 20, 2015  
9:30 A.M.

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 176  
and  
HOUSE RESOLUTION 112**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Kawakami and Members of the Committees:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 176 and House Resolution 112 requesting that the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources convene a working group to develop a coordinated framework of support for preschool through post-secondary agriculture education. The Department supports the resolution but defers to the University of Hawaii.

Agricultural education is vital in developing future generations to be agriculturally literate and aware of the connection between agriculture and the food we eat. Furthermore, a comprehensive and coordinated agricultural education framework will expose students to agriculture and by doing so hopefully increase the number of those students who will one day become the farmers who grow our food. Recent numbers from the 2012 U.S. Agricultural Census has found the average age of farmers in Hawaii is over 63 years old. A coordinated framework can be the start to reverse this graying of our agricultural workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui



Coordinated through The Kohala Center

## TESTIMONY

House Committee on Agriculture  
March 20, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

### Kaua'i

Tiana Kamen  
*Farm to Keiki Preschool Program*

Keone Kealoha  
*Mālama Kaua'i  
Kaua'i School Garden Network*

### O'ahu

Hunter Heavilin  
*O'ahu Farm to School Network*

Natalie McKinney  
*Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation*

Debbie Millikan  
*Iolani School*

Elysa Ermatinger  
*Hoa 'Āina O Makaha*

Mahealani Matsuzaki  
*Kamehameha Schools  
'Āina-Based Education*

Terri Langley  
*MA'O Organic Farms*

Jayne Grzebik  
*University of Hawai'i  
Master Gardeners*

### Moloka'i

Harmonee Williams  
*Sustainable Moloka'i  
Moloka'i School Garden Network*

### Mauī & Lana'i

Lehn Huff  
*Mauī & Lana'i School Garden Network*

Nio Kindla & Kirk Surry  
*Grow Some Good*

### Hawai'i Island

Nancy Redfeather & Donna Mitts  
*The Kohala Center  
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network*

### Statewide

Jennifer Ryan & Leimomi Dierks  
*Hawai'i Department of Health*

Dexter Kishida  
*Hawai'i Department of Education, SFSB*

Jennifer Dang  
*Hawai'i Department of Education, HCNP*

Lillian Coltin  
*Hawai'i Department of Education*

Andrea Snow  
*FoodCorps*

### Pacific Region

Dr. Koh Ming Wei  
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning*

## **HCR176: REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED FRAMEWORK OF SUPPORT FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH POST-SECONDARY AGRICULTURE EDUCATION.**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui **strongly supports HCR176**, which requests the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to convene a P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group.

Formed in 2010, the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui is a statewide network comprised of five island-level networks, along with representatives of the Hawai'i Departments of Education and Health, whose mission is to strengthen Hawai'i's statewide farm to school and school garden movement.

Providing access to quality agriculture education for students of *all* ages, from preschool through elementary, middle, and high school, and into post-secondary levels of education will be of great benefit to our state for the purposes of raising successive generations of local farmers and nurturing an understanding of and respect for food, agriculture, and 'āina among all of Hawai'i's citizens.

Our state is poised for the development of a coordinated effort that this resolution puts forth, with a specific focus on the creation of a holistic path for agriculture education and input from a broad coalition of stakeholders. Hawai'i's keiki and youth are as eagerly willing to seize every opportunity to explore the natural world through school gardens and to become involved in the creation of vibrant and sustainable community food systems across our state.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lydi Morgan Bernal  
Coordinator  
Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui  
schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org  
www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org

onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 8:53 AM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: carl.campagna@kamakagreen.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HCR176 on Mar 20, 2015 09:30AM\*

**HCR176**

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 20, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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March 20, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HCR 176/HR 112  
REQUESTING THAT THE UH MANOA CTAHR CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO  
DEVELOP A COORDINATED FRAMEWORK OF SUPPORT FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH  
POST-SECONDARY AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Room 312  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB supports the intent of HCR 176/ HR 112 and offers the following comments:**

It is commonly known that the average age of a farmer in Hawaii is approximately 60 years old. For agriculture to be sustainable, and to produce more local crops we, as a society, must cultivate the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

DLIR, under Director Takamine's and HDOA Chair Kokubun's leadership, undertook a series of facilitated meetings with farmers, ranchers, educators and a diverse group of stakeholders across the state between 2007 and 2011. Its report was published. This report: Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report, made a number of recommendations, of which several common themes emerged. #1 of those themes is 'Increasing youth education and training'.

In 2013, the Hawaii State Legislature saw fit to establish the Agriculture Workforce Advisory Board via HB 749 of that year. This Board convened, in part, to execute the recommendations of Hawaii Agriculture Skill Panel Report. HB 853 is a product of the Advisory Board is currently moving through the Senate. It establishes a program by which educators and school administrators can be exposed and incentivized to adopt existing broad-based agricultural curriculums. This is an important step toward the future of agriculture in Hawaii.

HCR 176 seeks to build upon the expertise of CTAHR and create a coordinated effort to address Ag education. It bears mentioning that CTAHR currently serves on the Ag Workforce Development Advisory Board.

Hawaii Farm Bureau believes that having another group working independently (with significant overlap of participants) would not be the most efficient model and suggests that a relationship be formed between the existing Advisory Board and the additional stakeholders outlined in HCR 176/ HR 112. HFB believes this capability already exists with the framework of the existing Advisory Board.

However, should the legislature decide to convene such a group under the leadership of the University, Hawaii Farm Bureau is eager to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

TESTIMONY of SUPPORT

House Committee on Agriculture

March 20, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

HCR176: Agriculture Education; P-20 Education

Dear Members of the Committee,

I represent a program called Farm to Keiki and support HCR176. Farm to Keiki is a farm to preschool program. I developed it after working for a few years helping to implement farm to school and school garden programs in Kauai's K-12 schools. While working with the K-12 schools, I learned that many of Kauai's children had very limited knowledge about where their food comes from or how to grow it themselves. Many of our children were malnourished and eating a diet of processed foods and were eating less than the amount of fruits and vegetables needed for a healthy diet. Our teachers and parents are not teaching our children about agriculture education. Many of the teachers and parents I worked with wanted to teach agriculture education, feed their children healthier locally-grown foods and grow school gardens, but the reality is that they didn't know how to do this.

I developed Farm to Keiki as a farm to preschool program for Hawai'i because my work with K-12 schools showed me that we were not educating our children about agriculture early enough, if at all. Hawaii's future generations will only be healthy, know how to grow and eat foods from Hawaii and interested in becoming farmers if they are taught it throughout their lifespan from preschool to college. We have unhealthy children who don't eat locally-grown foods and don't want to become farmers because we don't teach them this.

The demand for agriculture education is extremely high at the early childhood level. Preschools teachers statewide have asked me to help them institute a farm to preschool program in their schools. The Department of Education and Executive Office of Early Learning hired me to link DOE standards to our Farm to Keiki preschool curriculum so it can be used in their new state preschool classrooms statewide. Now I am working with the Kaua'i Community College to integrate farm to preschool into the entire learning pathway for their Early Childhood Education degree program.

Grass roots efforts from educational institutes, teachers, parents, non-profits and children are all trying to bring agriculture education into the schools. A coordinated framework and supported effort is now needed to bring agriculture education to all of our students statewide. By passing this bill, Hawaii's children will be healthier, we will have more children interested in farming and we will revive Hawaii's namesake of a people who know how to take care of the 'āina, the land which feeds us all.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration to support HCR 176.

Tiana Kamen

Farm to Keiki, Founder and Director



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Friday, March 20, 2015 at 9:30 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR176 / HR112 – REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA  
COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN  
RESOURCES CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A  
COORDINATED FRAMEWORK OF SUPPORT FOR  
PRESCHOOL THROUGH POST-SECONDARY AGRICULTURE  
EDUCATION.

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,  
thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HCR 176 / HR 112.

The University of Hawai'i supports development of a coordinated framework of support  
for P-20 agricultural education in Hawai'i, and our campuses and colleges have been  
working towards that end with the parties named in the resolution. The College of  
Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is prepared  
to convene the requested working group.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 7:01 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR176 on Mar 20, 2015 09:30AM

**LATE**

**HCR176**

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for AGR on Mar 20, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: There are many agricultural education initiatives in Hawai'i, but they have never been formally brought together to understand their significance to one another. Dean Gallo is a wise choice to convene an Agricultural Working Group PreK-20. According to the latest Department of Health SAWS Survey (Student Activity and Wellness Survey), there are 195/255 public school's in Hawai'i that have a school garden used daily for instructional purposes. 65% use the garden for science, and align with many other subject areas. School Gardens and School Farms/FFA at the High School level, working and coordinating together with the University will create significant collective impact on the whole community food and economic system. Since there are already so many gardens/farms that have started, it would be wise to work with what has already been created. The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui works with School Garden Networks on every island already. But there is little coordination between other aspects of the agricultural education initiatives but there could be if we could formally work together. Coordinated and supported agricultural education across the grades will have a huge impact of the future of agriculture in Hawai'i. It is the one thing we can do now that is not costly, and will move our community food system forward in a positive way. Mahalo for your support. Aloha, Nancy Redfeather Hawai'i Island School Garden Network - Director FoodCorps Hawai'i - State Supervisor Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui All Programs of The Kohala Center

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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